

Message Text

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44

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SCS-02 SCA-01 SS-15 SP-02 PM-03

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PPT-01 IO-04 L-02

H-01 /046 W

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R 211056Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1225

SECDEF

CINCPAC

CDR JCRC NKP

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS. MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: LAOS PW/MIA - MRS. ROY F. TOWNLEY

1. MRS. ROY F. TOWNLEY, WIFE OF MIA AIR AMERICAN PILOT AND CURRENTLY RESIDENT IN VIENTIANE, INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SHE AND MRS. CAROLYN STANDERWICK, VISITING WIFE OF MIA USAF PILOT, CALLED ON PRC EMBASSY ATTACHE, MR. TIEN CHIA-HO, ON OCTOBER 21 TO INQUIRE IF THERE ARE ANY AMERICAN PRISONERS BEING HELD IN CHINA. ACCORDING TO MRS. TOWNLEY, MR. TIEN REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION AND ASKED HER WHAT HAD PROMPTED HER TO RAISE IT. SHE TOLD HIM INQUIRY WAS BASED ON RUMORS SHE HAD HEARD AND ON POSSIBILITY THAT HER HUSBAND AND OTHERS MIGHT HAVE SURVIVED THE CRASH OF THEIR C-123K AIRCRAFT NEAR THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS OF CHINA ROAD IN NORTHWEST LAOS (VICINITY PAK BENG QC-2302).

(COMMENT: "RUMORS" MRS. TOWNLEY REFERS TO DERIVE FROM PUBLIC ALLEGATIONS BY THE REV. PAUL LINDSTROM 18 MONTHS AGO THAT TOWNLEY AND HIS CREW WERE BEING HELD PRISONER IN CHINA. END COMMENT)

2. CONTINUING HER CONVERSATION WITH TIEN, MRS. TOWNLEY

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REQUESTED PERMISSION TO VISIT PRC AND WAS INFORMED THAT

QUOTA FOR U.S. VISITORS HAD BEEN FILLED. TIEN OFFERED PERSONALLY TO ASSIST MRS. TOWNLEY IN GETTING A VISA WHEN NEW QUOTE IS ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY. TIEN WOULD NOT ACCEPT FACT SHEET ON TOWNLEY DISAPPEARANCE OR LETTERS ADDRESSED TO HIM. MRS. TOWNLEY DESCRIBED TIEN AS COURTEOUS AND INTERESTED IN HER SITUATION AND SAID MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN PLEASANT, RELAXED MANNER.

3. WE EXPECT MRS. TOWNLEY WILL PURSUE PRC VISA MATTER IN JANUARY. SHE WILL DEPART VIENTIANE IN LATE OCTOBER FOR VISIT WITH FAMILY IN U.S. AND PLANS TO RETURN IN DECEMBER.
WHITEHOUSE

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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: MOPS, CASC, OTRA, LA, US, (TOWNLEY, ROY F), (STANDERWICK, CAROLYN)
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